

Attorney Docket: 030350
U.S. Application No.: 10/720,780 Examiner: Antonienko Art Unit: 4194
Response to March 10, 2008 Office Action

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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services, comprising the steps of:

conducting an online auction for the communications services, the online auction conducted via a distributed computing network; ~~and~~

causing display of a service provider rating in a user interface that indicates presenting a rating of the communications services, the rating indicating whether the service provider satisfactorily provided the communications services were satisfactorily provided, the service provider rating presented during a subsequent online auction to indicate that a future communications service will be satisfactorily provided by the service provider; and

causing display of a recipient rating in the user interface during the subsequent online auction in which the service provider indicates whether a recipient of the communications services satisfactorily paid for the communications services.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services, comprising the steps of:

bidding via an online auction to provide the communications services;

providing the communications services; ~~and~~

receiving a service provider rating from a recipient of the communications services [[, the rating]] indicating whether the communications services were satisfactorily provided; and

providing a recipient rating in which a service provider indicates whether the recipient of the communications services satisfactorily paid for the communications services.

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3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein ~~the step of~~ receiving the service provider rating comprises receiving feedback regarding the ~~the~~ [[a]] recipient of the communications services, the feedback indicating whether the recipient was satisfied with the communications services.
4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein ~~the step of~~ receiving the service provider rating comprises receiving the rating from a client communications device associated with the recipient ~~the~~ [[a user]] of the communications services.
5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein providing the recipient rating comprises indicating the recipient's credit card accepted charges for the communications services ~~further comprising communicating a recipient rating regarding a recipient of the communications services, the recipient rating indicating whether the recipient satisfactorily paid for the communications services.~~
6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, further comprising causing display of the service provider rating ~~presenting the rating~~ during a future online auction ~~[[, wherein the rating is used]]~~ to indicate that future communications services will be satisfactorily provided.
7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein ~~the step of~~ providing the communications services comprises:
 - i) receiving a first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol,
 - ii) segmenting the first data stream into segments,
 - iii) dispersing the segments via a communications network for subsequent processing services,
 - iv) receiving results of the processing services,

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determining a subcontracted processing service is required from a different service provider,

grouping together individual packets of data as a new segment that requires the subcontracted processing service,

subcontracting the new segment to the different service provider to receive the subcontracted processing service,

receiving a result of the subcontracted processing service,

v) aggregating the results of the processing services and the result of the subcontracted processing service into a second data stream, and

vi) communicating the second data stream via the communications network.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services, comprising the steps of:

receiving a bid for the communications services [[; the bid received]] during an online auction ~~conducted via a distributed computing network;~~

providing the communications services; and

providing receiving a recipient rating in which a service provider of the communications services indicates whether the recipient of the communications services satisfactorily paid for the communications services ~~via the distributed computing network, the rating indicating whether the communications services were satisfactorily provided.~~

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, further comprising auctioning a block of time of usage.
10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the block of time comprises at least one of i) a maximum data transfer rate and ii) a minimum data transfer rate.

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11. (Original) A method according to claim 8, further comprising auctioning a block of time of usage, wherein the block of time may be shared between multiple recipients of the communications services.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 8, further comprising auctioning a block of time of usage, wherein the block of time may be shared between multiple telephone numbers.
13. (Original) A method according to claim 8, further comprising auctioning a block of time of usage, wherein the block of time may be shared between multiple client communications devices.
14. (Original) A method according to claim 8, further comprising auctioning a block of time of usage, wherein the block of time may be shared between multiple client communications devices associated with multiple users.
15. (Original) A method according to claim 8, further comprising negotiating with a group of recipients for the communications services, the group comprising recipients willing to pay for the communications services and recipients unwilling to pay for the communications services, wherein the recipients willing to pay for the communications services are permitted to sponsor the recipients unwilling to pay for the communications services.
16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein ~~the step of~~ providing the communications services comprises providing the communications services to both recipients willing to pay for the communications services and recipients unwilling to pay for the communications services.
17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, further comprising receiving a service provider rating from the ~~wherein the step of receiving the rating comprises~~

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~~receiving the rating from~~ a recipient of the communications services, the service provider rating indicating whether the recipient was satisfied with the communications services.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, further comprising presenting the service provider rating during a future online auction, wherein the service provider rating is used to inspire trust in other recipients that their future communications services will be satisfactorily provided.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein ~~the step of~~ providing the communications services comprises:

i) receiving a first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol,

ii) segmenting the first data stream into segments,

iii) dispersing the segments via a communications network for subsequent processing services,

iv) receiving results of the processing services,

determining a subcontracted processing service is required from a different service provider,

grouping together individual packets of data as a new segment that requires the subcontracted processing service,

subcontracting the new segment to the different service provider to receive the subcontracted processing service,

receiving a result of the subcontracted processing service,

v) aggregating the results of the processing services and the result of the subcontracted processing service into a second data stream, and

vi) communicating the second data stream via the communications network.

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20. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium storing processor executable instructions for performing a method, the method comprising:

receiving a bid for the communications services during an online auction;

providing the communications services; and

providing a recipient rating in which a service provider of the communications services indicates whether the recipient of the communications services satisfactorily paid for the communications services

~~a computer readable medium; and~~

~~an Analysis Module stored on the computer readable medium, the Analysis Module receiving a bid for communications services, the bid received during an online auction conducted via a distributed computing network, the Analysis Module initiating the communications services, and the Analysis Module receiving a rating of the communications services, the rating indicating whether the communications services were satisfactorily provided.~~